The Board of Agriculture Scores a Point on the National Department and Makes an Exposure of the Bordeaux Fallacy.

Colonel Thomas Whitehead, commissioner of agriculture, has prepared for general distribution to pomologists a circular of much interest, of which THE TIMES has secured an advance copy. The circular deals with the false attack made in England upon American sprayed fruit, and gives some very interesting facts in refutation. Mr. E. A. Fulcher, of Staunton, turned over to Henry L. Lyman the chairman of the Horticultural Committee of the State Board, a correspondence showing the enmity of English dealers to American fruit, among which was one written to the New York State Horticultural Society, and it gives a good idea of the situation.

ASSAULTING AMERICAN APPLES.

1: says: "The English Horticultural Times continues its assault upon the American apple, and is growing bolder in its assertions. In a recent number itsays that it is admitted that the American apple growers are com-jedled to depend upon the use of arsenic in solution as an insecticide in their orehards; hat this insecticide is used upon the fruit itself until it is completely saturated; that it is applied to the fruit several times before it arinues dry, the arsenic clings to the fruit, and what is not absorbed through the skin remains on it, forming a fine coating, which must evidently be detrimental to health, esecially when the fruit is consumed to any

A little further on it remarks: "The best three sorts of apples as regard quality that are put on the English markets are those aised at home, and those consigned by the asmania and American growers. Our own take the lead, and the others in the order assigned them above. Now, if we compare the three together, we find a delicate tint about e American fruit which is not to be foun pon either of the others. Again, if the in the barrel, as it comes first to hand from the vessel, is carefully rubbed with the owder in most cases is removed. This is the greenic adhering to the skin, and, if the fruit eaten at all, it should certainly be st with a cloth. We assert that the delicate and unnatural tint referred to is produced by arsenic which is absorbed through the

"Medical men inform us that when arsenic is administered in small doses it stimulates the action of the skin and gives clearness to the complexion, and it is for those reasons, especially in America, that it has been extensively used by the fairer sex for years." The Times then proceeds to declare that these facts are published from a sense of duty and not solely in the interests of home pro-Mr. Lyman visited Washington and per-

sonally urged upon the Assistant Secretary the importance of at once proceeding with this matter, and also urged him to at once invite the President of the United States Board of Health to visit Washington and horoughly investigate the whole subject. He found that the United States Secretary

of Agriculture and the Assistant Secretary Mr. Willits, had taken a lively interest in thi subject, and a bulletin, to be known as Farmers' Bulletin No. 7, has been prepared by the department, but has been delayed, a waiting an appropriation by Congress to secure its printing and circulation.

WHAT THE COMMISSIONER SAYS.

The Commissioner in referring to the matter says: "Information similar to that contained in the letter of Mr. Fulcher has been occasionally furnished this department, as well as information of wrong naming Virment of our products. Virginia is the home of the most superior white apple—the Albe-man's pippin and the most superior red—the and anything checking particularity in spray-ing, and the necessity of vigilance and coutention in this direction will do harm. therefore publish this circular of corres-ordence. I will turnish all applicants with ples of the report of this department, convention of injury by insects or fungi."

A COMMENDABLE MOVE.

It is a matter for commendation and con-atulation that our State Board of Agriculire is moving in a matter of so much im-priance to Virginians, whose best market its best apples is England, and that apeclating the value of the matter to the State has secured the advance sheets from Farmers' Bulletin No. 7 referred to above, and gives them to our fruit growers ahead of the department at Washington, which is lacking in appropriations to have it printed. The exguets following are from this buildtin, and are grower as will satisfy the minds of any reasonable person. SPRAYING FROM THE HYGIENIC STAND-

POINT.

The only insecticide sprays which are at all dangerous to use are the arsenic compounds, and even here the danger is greatly exaggerted by those not conversant with the lacts. Paris green and London purple have for many years been extensively used in this country s insecticides, and a case of fatal poisoning their use as such has never been substantiated. The only danger lies in having poison about a farm or plantation in bulk. the early days of the use of Paris green against the Colorado potato-beetle a great deal of opposition was developed on account of the supposed danger, and only recently the sale of American apples in England has received a set-back owing to the supposed danger of arsenic poisoning from their con-sumption. The question as to whether ar-senic may be absorbed by the growing plant in any degree was long ago settled in the negative by the best chemists in the country. A BIG MEAL.

It would seem at first glance that the use of an arsenical poison upon a plant like the cab-lage would be very unsafe to recommend. yet Paris green and London purple are used pon this crop to kill the several species of leaf-eating worms which are so destructive to and an absolute absence of all dauger here the application has been properly hade has been recently shown by Professor effects, of the Agricultural Experiment Stan of Colorado, by the following reductio ad

surdum:

\* \* Where the green is dusted from a bag the proportion of one ounce of the poison to ounces of flour and just enough applied to ach head to make a slight show of dust on be leaves, say, for twenty-eight heads of cabage, one ounce of mixture, the worms will be killed in the course of two or three lays, while the average amount of poison on each head will be about one-seventh of a grain. Fully one-half of the powder will fall on the outside leaves and on the ground, and thus an individual will have to cat about twenty-eight he dis of cabbage in order to usume a poisonous dose of arsenic, even if balance of the poison remained after

in case of spraying apple orchards for the in case of spraying apple orchards for the codling-moth there is scarely a possibility of injury to the consumer of the fruit. A mathematical computation will quickly show that where the poison is used in the proportion of one pound to 200 gailons of water (the customary proportion) the arsenic will be so dis-Costed through the water that it will be impossible for a sufficient quantity to collect open any given apple to have the slightest in-trions effect upon the consumer. In fact, such a computation will indicate beyond ail per adventure that it will be necessary for an in-dividual to consume several barrels of apples at a single meal in order to absorb a fatal dose, even should this enormous meal be exten soon after the spraying and should the con-

As a matter of fact careful miroscopic examinations have been made of the fruit and follage of sprayed trees at various intervals after spraying, which indicate that after the water has evaporated the poison soon entirely disappears, either through being blown off by the wind or washed off by rains, so that after Diteen days hardly the minutest trace can be

SOME STRIKING EXPERIMENTS. In the line of actual experiments as indi-cating the extremely fine divided state of the poison and the extremely small quantity

which is used to each tree, Professor A. J. Cook, of the Michigan Agricultural College, as collected some striking experiments. thick paper was placed under an apple tree which was thoroughly sprayed on a windy day, so that the dripping was rather excessive. After the dripping had ceased the paper (covering a space of 72 square feet) was analyzed and four-tenths of a grain of arsenic was found. Another tree was thoroughly sprayed, and subsequently the grass and clover beneath it was carefully cut and fed to a horse without the slightest sign

The whole matter was well summed up by Professor Riley in his recent lecture before Lowell Institute, in Boston, in the following

The latest sensational report of this kind was the rumor, emanating from London, within the last week, that American apples were being rejected for fear that their use was were being rejected for fear that their use was unsafe. If we consider for a moment how minute is the quantity of arsenic that can, under the most favorable circumstances, remain in the calyx of an apple, we shall see at once how absurd this fear is; for, even if the poison that originally killed the worm remained intact, one would have to eat many barrels of apples at a meal to get a sufficient quantity apples at a meal to get a sufficient quantity to poison a human being. Moreover, much of the poison is washed off by rain, and some of it is thrown off by natural growth of the apple, so that there is, as a rule, nothing lett of the poison in the garnered fruit. Add to this the further fact that few people eat apples raw without casting away the ealyx and stem ends, the only parts where any poison could, under the most favorable cirpoison could, under the most lavorable cir-cumstances, remain, and that these parts are always cut away in cooking, and we see how utterly groundless are any fears of in-jury and how useless any prohibitive measures against American apples on this

USE OF THE COPPER CO. TOUNDS.

Ever since the copper compon, ds came into general use as fungicides the que, tion as to their effects, hygienically considered, has reeived more or less attention. With the exno positive stand on this question has been taken so far as we are aware. Many value and misleading statements, however, has, from time to time appeared in the horficular tural and agricultural papers. Every one familiar with the situation understands why hese rumors, for such they can only be con

sidered, are sent out. We take the ground that fruit sprayed with copper compounds in accordance with the directions of the department; is harmiess. No better proof of this is to be found than that shown by the experience of this country. For five years the copper compounds have been used by hundreds and thousands of fruit growers in every part of the United States; in all that time not a single authenticated case of poisoning, so far as we are aware, has been brought to light. It is true a few in-dividuals have claimed that they were made sick by eating sprayed fruit, but in all such cases careful investigations have revealed that claims of this kind were absolutely without foundation. However, we do not consider these general statements sufficient to warrant us in taking the stand as regards the harmlessness of the copper compound when properly used. More direct testimony is readily obtained, and some of this we now propose to consider. The questions may be properly discussed under two heads, namely: (1) The present condition of our knowledge

as regards the toxicology of copper.

(2) Are the saits found in sufficient quantity upon the fruit at the time of harvest to prove injurious to health?

No doubt the majority of people, including physicians, would answer the first statement at once by saying that copper is a poison When we come to look carefully in the matter. nowever, it is found that the very best authori ties differ on the subject. For more than a hundred years the question as to the poisonou nature of copper has been discussed, and yet, after reading all the testimony, it is exceedingly difficult from the evidence adduced to form a definite opinion.

A DOUBTFUL QUESTION.

In 1885 the question was discussed before the Beigium Royal Academy of Medicine for seven months, the object being to obtain some authoritative data as to the effect of copper contained in F. ench canned vegetables on the While it was finally decided that the copper compounds in food were harmful, no direct stand as to the poisonous nature of the substance was taken.

in large or even moderate doses is unwholesome. Looking at the question from this standpoint, let us consider the second purt of our subject—i. e., are the salts found in sufficient quantity in connection with property sprayed fruit at the time of harvest to cause injury to health? At this point it may be well to add that all our remarks apply to the Bordeaux mixture, which contains about twenty times as much copper as the ammoniacal solution, the only additional fungicide worthy of consideration on account of its extended use,

THE BORDEAUX MIXTURE.

At this point we are confronted with a somewhat complex chemical question which makes it difficult to obtain results strictly comparable. The Bordeaux mixture, as elsewhere shown, is made by the addition of lime to a solution of context when the description of the solution of the context of the solution of the soluti to a solution of copper sulphate. According to recent investigations, the reaction is an exceedingly complicated one, the details of which are unnecessary here. It has generally been accepted that the mixture as sprayed upon the vines consists for the most part of copper hydrate, which upon drying becomes an insoluble compound. We have, therefore, insoluble compound. first of all, the question to consider whether hydrate is likely to prove injurious to health as the sulphate in solution. No direct investigations upon this point have, so far as we know, been made. It has been shown, however, that doses of copper four to five times greater can be administered in an insoluble than a soluble state. Finally, when sprayed fruit is analyzed the hydrate is changed in the process to oxide or metallic copper, which is even more insoluble than the hydrate. The question now briefly stated resolves itself into this: May we, without as-suming too much, use the facts bearing on the harmfulness or harmlessness of copper-sulphate when considering copper hydrate and copper oxide? We believe that this may in other words, that if an adult can safely absorb 0.5 gram of copper sulphate a day without injury, he may with much less tear of ill effects absorb the same quantity of copper hydrate and copperoxide. In fact, as regards the ill effects of the latter, bygienically considered, there is a great deal of evidence which will be considered later.

dence which will be considered later. Accepting, then, 0.5 gram as the maximum amount of copper in any of the forms dis-cussed that may with safety be daily absorbed, let us see how these figures compare with the quantity of this metal found in conection with properly sprayed fruits as well as some other foods and drinks. Analyses to determine the amount of copper on sprayed grapes have been made in Germany, France, America and other countries. The result of all these show that countries are specifically as the second of the countries. show that granes sprayed intelligently rarely contain more that 5 milligrams (0.005 gram) of copper per kilogram, the average being from 254 to 3 milligrams per kilogram. In other words, 1,000,000 gounds of grapes sprayed in the usual way with the Bordeaux mixture would contain from 216 to 5 milligrams. ture would contain from 2½ to 5 pounds of copper. To reduce the figures still further, each 1,000 pounds of fruit would contain 11.4 to 22.8 grains of copper. On this basis an adult may eat from 300 to 500 pounds of sprayed grapes per day without fear of ill flects from the copper. This shows how ridiculously absurd are the statements that fruits properly sprayed with the Bordeaux mixture or any other copper compound are

Emperor William's ear malady became very troublesome about a month ago, and the attack, was so severe, so prolonged and its effects troublesome about a month ago, and the attack was so severe, so prolonged and its effects upon the Emperor were so alarming that his medical atterdant. Dr. Leuthold, sent an urgent summons to Dr. von Esmarch, of Kiel, an exceedingly elever man, who gave up practice many years ago, and now only attends the members of his own family. Dr. von Esmarch married, in 1872, the Princess Henrietta of Schleswig-Holstein, who is an aunt of the German Emperor, and he has since been confidentially consulted by the Imperial family in really serious cases. Dr. Esmarch was in constant attendance upon the Emperor for a week before his Majesty's hurried flight to Hubertussock, and he followed his patient to that place and returned with him to Berlin, and is still staying at the Schloss. Dr. Esmarch is regarded at the German Court as a stormy petrel, and every effort was made to conceal the fact that he had been summoned to attend the Emperor.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria

CAPTURE OF BUCHANAN.

General Averill's Entry Into the Town-An Old Mammy's Courage. (Philadelphia Times.)

There is, perhaps, not a more picturesque village in the mountains of Virginia than the little town of Buchanan, in Botetourt county. With its pretty homes, each like its occupants, with its individuality distinctly develope and its environment of mountain ranges, it i like a picture set in a framework of green. It is situated on the right bank of the James, and just at this point the scenery along that river is particularly attractive, an English artist declaring it to be superior to that upon the borders of the far-famed Rhine.

A mile or so below the town, on the towing path leading in the direction of Lynchburg. is an arch as symmetrical as though chiseled by the hand of man, cut into the solid limeby the hand of man, cut into the solid lime-stone rock which projects from the overhang-ing cliff. It formed the objective point of numberless walking parties in those good old days, the young people regarding it as an achievement to clamber up the aimost per-pendicular way which led to it, and its vanited dome has echoed many a merry laugh and many a tender nothing uttered by voices that are silent now.

During the civil war it furnished a frequent place of shelter for deserters, and after it was the harbor for a band of outlaws who, taking advantage of the civil and political disorder which prevailed, committed many deels of rapine and even violence upon the defenseless rapine and even violence upon the defenseless inhabitants. In 1803 the female element in Buchanan was largely in the predominance, the opposite sex, with the exception of the children, being represented by negroes and a few superannuated whites, inspired by a feeling of devotion we laid our choicest and our best upon the altar of patriotism as one culls the furnat blassoms to place upon the altar of patriotism as one our test the fairest blossoms to place upon chapel shrines, and each home had been stripped of one or more of its inmates to swell the army of the Confederacy.

In the adjacent farm houses the rythmical

sound of the shuttle as it plied to and fro mingled with the music of the spinningmingled with the music of the spinning at wheel; while the villagers, assembling at some appointed place, cut and made the home-made cloth into garments for the soldiers; or, gathered about their own fire sides on winter evenings, with a pine-knot or a single tallow candle for illumination, transformed the rough yarn into gloves, socks and

Ala, "ms of "Yankees" had agitated us from Ala, ms of Yaukees had agitated us from time to time ever since the breaking out of the war but in the month of June, 1863, and thentic izt. digence was received that General McCausland. notly pursued by General Averall, was rest, ating in our direction, and, storing their val. ables of every description in trunks and boza, the villagers conveyed them to a secluded upot in the mountains and concealed them in the colerated them in the secluded. them to a secluded concealed them in the colefts of the rocks and concealed them in the colefts of the rocks and An older sister of my other hiding places. An older sister of my other hiding places. 'lecting her treasures, own, then a little girl, co. 'lecting her treasures, pried a board from the 'loor of an outhouse and hid them beneath it, and it would have said hid them beneath it, and it would have head they followed her example. It is a sessisted in Guided by the negroes who had they followed her example. We went direct their removal, the Union soldiers went direct to the place where our valuables vere concealed, and our family plate, our jews their even portions of our clothing fell instead.

even portions of our clothing fell into their hands. An immense case of Madeirs, it, he years old when my father purchased it is the island, which had been in his possession for a long while, was opened and its contents drunk upon the spot. Meanwhile my sister's little treasures reposed in safety beneath the out-

Harrowing accounts had reached us of the exhausted condition of McCausland's troops, and of the length of time during which they had been without food, and, at their approach, our citizens prepared the provisions which could be spared from their own scanty larders, and putting it into baskets, stationed them-selves along the streets down which the troops passed and distributed it among them. Very worn and haggard they looked, and

when our supply of biscuits and bacon was exhausted, we took from the fire the soup exhausted, we took from the fire the soup which had been prepared for our own frugal dinner, and, dipping it up by cupfuls, served it to the hungry Confederates. My father's house was situated upon the main street of the village, and, as the troops passed it, our colored mammy, weighing in the neighborhood of 300 pounds, ventured to come to the freest to take a look at than, and was greated. front to take a look at them, and was greeted with bursts of laughter.

'Look at that old nigger, boys!" they ex-simed. "That don't look much like starva-

tion."

One of the children, fearing that mammy would be wounded, took her gently by the hand and would have drawn her away, but the old woman stood her ground.

"Lor", chillen." she said, "let 'em laugh if it'll do 'em any good. Let de poo' creeters laugh; mammy don't mind it."

The cloud of dust which concealed the retresting Confederates had scarcely subsided

The cloud of dust which concealed the retreating Confederates had scarcely subsided when our attention was drawn to the other end of the town. The hemiet of Pattonsburg is situated on the opposite side of the river from Buchanan, and was connected with it by a long wooden bridge. This bridge, in order to retard Averill's progress, McCausland had fired, and the sparks from the burning structure had communicated with the adjacent buildings, and the whole lower portion of the village was in flames. Clouds of smoke rolled upward, and the despairing cries of those thus rendered homeless mingled with the roar of the flames. Presently the gray curtain parted, and pale-faced women with helpless children clinging to their skirts and bearing in their hands such valuables as their hasty exit permitted them to collect emerged and made their way in the to collect emerged and made their way in the direction of our home, stopping for a moment within the enclosure when they had reached it.

At this juncture Averill, arriving upon the opposite side of the river, and suppossing McCausland to be still in the town, fired a McCausiand to be sint in the town, fred a volley of artillery into the terrified inhabitants. Bemb shells exploded in our very midst and, together with our less fortunate neighbors, we crowded into a long cellar which extended beneath our house as a place of sefer trees these lurging missiles. There of safety from these bursting missiles. our dear old mammy employed herself com-posing speeches with which to conciliate the

approaching foe.
"Gentlemen," she would say, addressing imaginary officers, "I'll cook for you, I'll wash for you, but, if you please, don't put me to standin'. I can't make no hand at

But mammy did not monopolize the character of speaker. The honor was shared with her by an old lady afflicted with lameness, who sat with her maimed member stretched out upon a chair, occasionally haranguing the trembling throng about her and inciting us to courage and fortitude.

"Others have passed through such trying scenes," she would say, "why shouldn't we." How Averill found out that he was wasting his ammunition upon helpless women and children I cannot say, but in some way the intelligence was conveyed to him and the firing ceased. We had scarcely emerge i from our place of refuge and grouped ourselves upon a porch at the side of the house, when a horserpan, popularly upon a forming stead horseman, mounted upon a foaming steed, dashed down the main street hurrahing and waving an unsheathed sabre about his head.

Waving an unsheathed sabre about his head.

He had discovered the ford at the opposite end of the town and was the first Federal who entered Euchanan. The rest followed more slowly, or ssing the river upon pontoons. The soldiers had gathered bouquets of the beautiful mountain by fastering of the beautiful mountain vy, fastening them to the ends of their bayonets, and as they marched down the village street, the band at their head playing "Hail Columbis," they looked like a moving mass of bloom. General Averill selected as his heaquarters the lawn in front of the Presbyterian rectory diagonally opposite our own house, and we had great reason to congratulate ourselves

upon his proximity.

Blue coats seem to fill all space. An party
of Federals, clearing our garden fence at a
bound, tore up the young vegetables by the roots: another entered our cellar, presently returning waving sealed bottles exultantly above their heads. These happened to conabove their heads. These happened to contain spoiled tomatoes, which through some carelessness had not been thrown out; but in their eagerness to get at the supposed liquor they broke off the necks of the bottles and swallowed a considerable portion of their contents before discovering their mistake. If the drunk which followed these potations was bogus the illness which succeeded was genuine enough, and the unnortunate imbibers were obliged to call into requisition the services of a physician.

were obliged to call into requisition the services of a physician.

Deeds of vandalism, however, were not permitted to go long unchecked among Averill's men, and the General himself looging very elegant to our Confederate eyes in his well-made clothes and varnished boots, accompanied by his aid, who was respiendent in a black velvet suit and pale blue tie, approached the porch where we were sitting, and insisted upon stationing guards for our protection upon the premises.

"Are you going to have any more firing?" one of the childrep ventured tremuleusly to

appeared in our kitchen with all sorts of good things in the raw state.

"Miss T — Aunt Nellie said to the head of the house, "he bring me a little white powder to put in de biscuit, an it make em des as light as if you had put east in em." This was the old darker's first introduction to yeast powder. One of our old neighbors, an old gentleman by no means distinguished for his courage, was found hiding in the mountains by a party of Federals and marched down the main street of the village to Averill's headquarters. A very pitable sight the old fellow presented, with his blanched visage and his knees smiting each other as he walked; but in recounting his adventures to an acquaintance after the enemy had left

inquire of the General, as his companion and

himself were turning away.
"No," he replied, smiling, "would you like

us to have some more?" Our colored servents had the henor of cooking for General Averill

and his staff, and each morning a man servant appeared in our kitchen with all sorts of good

an acquaintance after the enemy had Buchanan, and were known to be at a safe distance, from him, he remarked boastfully. "And do you know, I believe if I hadn't been so brave they would have shot me."

GILBERTA S. WEITTLE.

TO BE FINISHED IN FIVE YEARS.

Warner Miller Talks Hopefully of the Nics-

ragua Canal. Ex-Senator Warner Miller arrived in Washington last night. This is his first visit during the present session, and many persons who saw him at the Arlington wondered what his mission could be. He told the correspondent that he came to see Dr. Guzman, the Nicaraguan Minister, on matters Politics, he declared, had nothing to do his presence here. He was not in politics at present. With regard to the probability that he would be one of the "Big Four" delegates from New York to the National Republican Convention, he said that there was nothing

prevent the people from talking.
Mr. Miller expressed the opinion that the prospects of the Nicaragua canal were very bright. It was true, he said, that large blocks of its stock had recently been purchased by American capitalists, and he was confident that much more would be taken in the immediate future when it became apparent to the country that the canal would surely be built. Five years would see the completion of the work, if sufficient funds could be secured. If

the United States Government saw fit to take a hand it could do so by making the proper financial arrangements. No effort other than that contemplated in the bill now betore Congress has been made or would be made to secure the co-operation of the Gov-

ernment.
Mr. Miller said that he would leave soon for the West to carry out the programme mapped out to enlighten the citizens of the principal cities concerning the great under-He believes that the trip will prove highly satisfactory.

> What is News. [Atlanta Constitution.]

THE RICHMOND TIMES enters its protest against the publication of a certain class of matter supposed to be news, the common property of the public, when in point of fact it relates to the private or family affairs of As illustrative of this objectionable and il-

As hindstraire of this objections of an in-legitimate news Tag Taxes mentions the Drayton-Borrowe scandal and the gossip in New York over the differences between the lone of the skinner and Hon. John S. Wise, can all by the former's anger over his grand-daugt ter's failure to receive an invitation to a daugh ter's failure to receive an invitation to a daugh, class a mater in which Mrs. Wise daugh osed to be the controlling influence, Now, the New York newspapers made sensations out these affairs. The Sun paid a large sum of those one of the parties to the formation from one of the parties to the Drayton-Borrows case and published it with Drayton-Borrows case are properly to the Hernh. Was the first paper to

prayton-Borrows case and published it with pride. The Herak, was the first paper to make the other story public.

Fine news this, and fine work in getting it! A man is paid to violate confidence and the grief of an old man and the mortification of a young girl are published to the world as fit matter for laughter and jeer. Our Richmond contamporar, is outspoken

Our Richmond contemporary is outspoken in the opinion that if the modern newspaper has no higher mission than the discovery and publication of such stuff, then the newspaper had better its

had better die. Undoubtedly, while the newspaper has progressed in some directions, it has gone backwards in others. As Tax Times reminds its readers, the modern newspaper had its beginning when Queen Llizabeth resorted the Gazette to warn her subjects that Spain was about to invade the country. Through this newspaper she rallied the people and from that day to this they have never dreaded a foreign foe. The modern newspaper started out to give the important publie intelligence of the day, and The Gazette no intenigence of the day, and The Gazette nobiy filled its mission when it forewarned its readers of the Spanish Armada. From the publication of such news to the peddling out of the private sorrows and misfortunes of individuals is a long and a lamentable step

downwards.

Still, we cannot radically reform the evil ways of the press all at once. But our preachers, teachers and the good men and women of the country can educate and shape a public opinion that will hold sensational newspapers in check. News. from a conscientious point of view, in its relations to journalism, should consist of such recent events and occurrences as are fit and proper to be published for the information or entertainment of the public. Some matters do not belong to the public, and are not fit to appear in print. These incidents are not news, and it is not the business of a newspaper to discover and publish them. paper to discover and publish them.

Possibly one of the strangest discoveries Possibly one of the strangest discoveries of the time was last week made by a Paris shopkeeper, who lives at Nogent-sur-Marne. While cleaning out a well which had been abandoned for twenty years he came upon a flight of steps hewn in the chalk. He paid little attention to their origin and said nothing. However, the day following he mentioned it to his workmen, who descended the tioned it to his workmen, who descended the well and found that the steps led to a gal-lery three feet wide and six feet high. They explored it, and upon coming to the other end were startled at the sight of a man with his back leaning upon the wall and wearing a dingy costume of a national guard of 1870. The human figure was so wonderfully well preserved and life-like that the ignorant me-chanics thinking they had come upon a der anies, thinking they had come upon a chanies, thinking they had come upon a den of thieves, hastened to their employer—told him of the mysterious man they had seen. A search party was immediately formed, and they found that the gailery led to another underground room. There the body of a lieutenant of the old National Guard was sitting at a rickety table, upon which were a bottle and two wine glasses. The officer's attitude was that of a person dozing, his arms being folded and his head nodding. Besides rifles being stacked in the corner, several sheets of notes were found in the lieutenant's pockets. The contents of these papers have not, as The contents of these papers have not, as yet, been made public, but they will more than likely afford a clue to the identity of that havely afford a clus to the identity of the two men who, no doubt, shared the fate of so many of their countrymen who shed their life's blood upon the battlefield while fighting for la belle grance. The ques-tion is everywhere asked, "How did they meet with their singular fate." Much exmeet with their singular fate." Much excitement prevails in the vicivity of the discovery, and the people at Nogent are convinced that during the siege of Paris, at the time of the memorable Franco-Prussian war, the Germans knew of the two victims hiding-place, and filled up the entrance of the pit in order to bury them alive. Another supposition is that they took refuge from the Germans and provided in the convenience of the pit in order to bury them alive. tion is that they took refuge from the Germans in the gallery, the sides of which fell in, probably, by accident.

Mr. Jephson, who was one of Stanley's most trusted lieutenants on the Emin expedition, and lived for many months with Emin in his province, expresses great faith in the possibility of the commercial development of central Africa. In his recent lectures he says that tobasco grows almost everywhere. central Africa. In his recent lectures he says that tobacco grows almost everywhere, and its quality would insure for it is ready sale. The great product, however, will be cotton. He saw it cultivated in great quantities by Emin Pasha. In Uganda and the countries beyond, sufficient cotton of a good quality could be grown to render England independent of supplies from other sources. He has great faith in the proposed railroad to Victoria Nyanza, and says that the cost of transporting a bale of cloth from the coast to the lake is now five times its value, and the cost of transport for other goods is proportionately high. other goods is proportionately high.

Crown Prince William, of Prussis, will be Crown Prince William, of Prussia, will be ten years old on May 6th, and, according to the traditions of the House of Hohenzollern, will on that day enter the First regiment of the Foot Guards and receive the Jorder of the Black Eagle. The day will be celebrated in grand style in Berlin. INSURANCE STATEMENT.

[Published by authorty of the Auditor of Public Accounts for the Commonwealth of Virginia.]

A NNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING THE SIST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1891, of the actual condition of the Unived States Branch of the Lion Fire Insurance Company, organized under the laws of Great Britain, made to the Auditor of Public Accounts for the Commonwealth of Virginia, pursuant to sections 1250 and 1281, Code 1857, regulating the reports of insurance companies.

Name of the company in full—Lion Fire Insurance Company (limited), London, England.

Home of principal office of said company—197 Asylum street, Habitond, Cons.

Character of the company, whether are, fire and marine, or marine insurance company—Fire.

United States Manager—M. Borney H. Brewster.

Organized and incorporated—1879.

Commenced business in the United States—1889.

Name of the general agent in Virginia—Fromas G. Peyton.

Residence of the general agent in Virginia—Richmond.

L CAPITAL.

II. ASSETS.

Loans on bond and mortgage (duly recorded and being first liens on the fee simple).

upon which not more than one year's interest is due.

Interest due on all said bond and mortgage loans. et.062.10.

Value of lands mortgaged, exclusive of buildings and perishable im-Value of buildings mortgaged. Total value of said mortgaged premises..... Account of stocks, bonds, and treasury notes of the United States and of this State and other States, and also of stocks and bonds of incorporated cities in this State, and of all other stocks and bonds, owned absolutely by the company.

Value. Errowkiyn 5 per cent. school improvement boarts.

Errowkiyn 5 per cent. improvement loan boards.

City of Richmond boards.

Georgia State boards.

Total par and market value, carried out at market value .... \$382,000 00 \$419,500 LO

Amount of stocks, bonds and all other securities (except mor(gages) hypothecated to the company as collateral security for cash actually issued by the company, with the par and market value of the same, and the amount loaned on each. 3) shares Hartford Fire Insurance Company stock. 12) shares Pennselvama Hailway Company stock. 24 shares Hartford Fire Insurance Company 7,920 00 2,753 (0) 2,660 00} 5,400 **0**) 4,500 00 3,200 00 11 shares Phanti Fire Insurance Company stock 108 shares United States Express Company stock 108 shares Chited States Express Company stock 109 shares Cleveland. Chicago. Cincinnati and St. Louis Hailway Company stock 41 shares Hartford Fire Insurance Company 10,000 00 7.050 001 4,100 00 3,300 00

Total par and market value, and amount loaned \$38,500 00 \$46,380 ( Cash in Company's principal office Cash in Company's principal office

Cash belonging to the company deposited in bank (name bank) National Exchange

Bank Bartford, Conn., \$78,75.24; Anglo-Californian Bank, San Francisco, \$4,24.67

Interest due and accrued on stocks not included in "market value"

interest due and accrued on collateral loans

Gross premiums in course of collection not more than three months due. 82,681 61 5,277 50

Aggregate amount of all the assets of the company, stated at their actual \$854,176 81 III. LIABILITIES.

Gross claims for adjusted and unnaid losses due and to become due.....\$ 25,146 85 Gross losses in process of adjustment or in suspense, including all reported and supposed losses.

Losses resisted, including interest, costs and other expenses thereon..... 7,575 00 872,924 86 

Total unearned premiums as computed above.

All other demands against the company, absolute and contingent, due, and to become due, admitted and contested. Total amount of all liabilities, except capital stock and net surplus
Surplus beyond capital and all other liabilities

Aggregate amount of all liabilities, including paid-up capital stock and net IV. INCOME.

Net cash actually received for premiums.

Received for interest on bonds and morrgages
Received for interest and dividends on stocks and bonds, collateral loans and from Aggregate amount of income actually received during the year ...... \$528,626 74

V. EXPENDITURES. Gross amount actually paid for losses, including \$43,112.61 losses occur-Paid for commissions or brokerage.
Paid for salaries, fees and all other charges of officers, clerks, agents and all other

Paid for salaries, fees and an employes employes.

Paid for State, national and local taxes in this and other States.

Paid for State, national and expenditures, viz: interest on borrowed money, general and agency expenses ... Aggregate amount of actual expenses during the year....

BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA DURING 1891. Fire, marine and inland risks written in 1891..... Losses incurred in 1891.

Losses incurred in 1891, paid.

Losses incurred in 1891, unpaid.

\$ 18.017 87
15.007 03
2,010 34

Sworn and subscribed to by M. Burnett, manager, in the city of Hartford, State of Connecticut, on the 22d day of January, 1882, before Edward F. Rogers, notary public.

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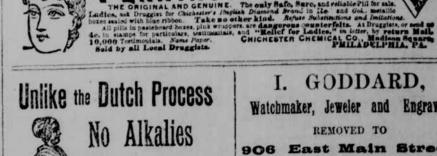
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